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Message Text

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70
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 FPC-01 OEP-01 SCEM-02 EB-11

COME-00 H-03 L-03 SS-15 NSC-10 RSR-01 /103 W
---------- 122852
R 182350Z JUL 73
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1352

UNCLAS OTTAWA 1650

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, CA, US
SUBJECT: PARLIAMENTARY STATEMENTS ON OIL PIPELINE

1. FOLLOWING EXCHANGES AS REPORTED IN HANSARD, TOOK PLACE IN HOUSE OF COMMONS JULY 17 REGARDING US SENATE VOTE ON ALYESKA PIPELINE:

"MORGAN (PC-ONTARIO): IN VIEW OF THE VOTE IN US SENATE THIS MORNING APPROVING CONSTRUCTION OF ALASKA PIPELINE, SETTING ASIDE THE PROVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT AND REMOVING ANY PROSPECT OF JUDICIAL REVIEW, CAN THE RIGHT HON. GENTLEMEN TELL ME WHETHER DISCUSSIONS ARE BEING CONTINUED IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROJECTED MACKENZIE PIPELINE FOR GAS AND, IF SO, WHEN IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE RESULTS OF SUCH DISCUSSIONS CAN BE MADE KNOWN TO THE HOUSE?

"CHRETIEN (MINISTER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT): ON BEHALF OF THE MINISTER OF ENERGY MINES AND RESOURCES, I MUST SAY THAT SUBJECT OF DECISION REACHED THIS MORNING BY SENATE IN WASHINGTON AFFECTS IN NO WAY THE FUTURE OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PIPELINE IN CANADA, BECAUSE THE DECISION OF THE AMERICAN SENATE DEALS WITH OIL. WITH REGARD TO THE DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PIPELINE,
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THE SITUATION REMAINS THE SAME: WE ARE STILL

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INTERESTED IN HAVING A PIPELINE BUILT ALONG THE MACKENZIE VALLEY.

"FRASER (PC-BRITISH COLUMBIA): MR. SPEAKER, MY QUESTION IS DIRECTED TO THE PM. IN VIEW OF ALLEGATIONS TODAY BY A US SENATOR THAT THE US STATE DEPT. MISLED THE US SENATE BY STATING THAT CANADA HAS SHOWN 'NO STRONG, CURRENT INTEREST' IN THE MACKENZIE PIPELINE ALTERNATIVE TO THE ALASKA TANKER ROUTE, CAN THE PM ASSURE THE HOUSE THAT THE US STATE DEPT. WAS RECENTLY ADVISED BY THE GOVERNMENT THAT IT HAS, INDEED, A STRONG, CURRENT INTEREST IN THE MACKENZIE ROUTE?

"TRUDEAU: YES, MR. SPEAKER, THAT IS THE POSITION OF THE GOVERNNET. AS TO THE WORD 'RECENTLY', I WOULD HAVE TO CONFER WITH THE MINISTER TO SEE HOW RECENT THAT WAS.

"FRASER: I HAVE A SUPPLEMENTARY, MR. SPEAKER. IN VIEW OF THE SENATOR'S FURTHER CHARGE THAT THE UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO CANADA HAS HAD PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT, INDICATING CANADIAN APPROVAL OF THEMACKENZIE ROUTE AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE TANKER ROUTE, CAN THE PRIME MINISTER ADVISE THE HOUSE IF THERE WERE SUCH CONVERSATIONS AND IF SO, WITH WHOM AND HOW RECENTLY?

"TRUDEAU: MR. SPEAKER, I WILL TAKE NOTE OF THE QUESTION AND INQUIRE."

2. ENERGY, MINES AND RESOURCES MINISTER MACDONALD, WHO IN QUEBEC CITY JULY 17, ISSUED FOLLOWING STATEMENT REGARDING SENATE VOTE;

"THE SENATE DECISION IF IT IS SUPPORTED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WOULD APPEAR TO DECIDE THE OIL PIPELINE QUESTION IN FAVOUR OF THE TRANS-ALASKA PIPELINE. THE MOST IMMEDIATE CANADIAN CONCERN WILL THEREFORE BE TO PROTECT BRITISH COLUMBIA INLAND WATERS
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AGAINST THE RISK OF OIL SPILLS FROM LARGE TANKERS.

" A MAJOR OBJECTIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE TO SECURE THAT PROTECTION.

3. FOLLOWING EXHANGE TOOK PLACE IN HOUSE OF COMMONS JULY 18 AS BASED ON EMBOFF NOTES:

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OPPOSITION LEADER STANFIELD UNSUCCESSFULLY SOUGHT
UNANIMOUS CONSENT OF HOUSE TO MOVE MOTION REQUESTING
GOVERNMENT TO ORGANIZE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE TO MEET
IN WASHINGTON WITH U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION IN
ORDER TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS ON CANADIAN POSITION
REGARDING MOVEMENT OF ALASKAN OIL THROUGH STRAIT OF
JAUN DE FUCA.

4. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION BY FRASER (P.C.,
BRITISH COLUMBIA) ON ORGANIZING PARLIAMENTARY
DELEGATION, THE PRIME MINISTER STATED HE WOULD
CONSIDER IT FURTHER BUT FIRST REACTION WOULD BE
NEGATIVE. HE ADDED THAT IF PARLIAMENT RECEIVED
INVITATION FROM CONGRESS IT WOULD BE A DIFFERENT
MATTER. FRASER THEN ASKED WHETHER, IN LIGHT OF
STATE DEPT. DISTORTION OF CANADA POSITION ON PIPELINE, GOC HAD
INQUIRED OR WAS PREPARING TO PROTEST TO USG.
TRUDEAU REPLIED THAT GOC POSITION ON DANGERS OF TRANS-
ALASKAN PIPE SYSTEM (TAPS) WAS KNOWN AND PREVIOUS
REPRESENTATIONS HAD BEEN MADE TO USG IN A FORCEFUL WAY.
P.M. ADDED THAT THE U.S. CONGRESS WOULD THINK
IT "PREPOSTEROUS" FOR A "BUNCH OF FOREIGN
PARLIAMENTARIANS" TO ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON WITHOUT
BEING INVITED. FRASER THEN ASKED IF P.M. WAS
PREPARED TO MAKE A PERSONAL VISIT TO WASHINGTON
"TO RALLY SUPPORT" FOR CANADIAN POSITION. TRUDEAU
REPLIED THAT DURING PRESIDENT NIXON'S VISIT TO OTTAWA
LAST YEAR THE TWO LEADERS HAD DISCUSSED THE QUESTION
AND THAT THERE WAS NO NEED TO REPEAT THIS DISCUSSION
NOW.

5. TO QUESTION BY HARDING (NDP, BRITISH COLUMBIA) AS
TO WHETHER, IN VIEW OF MISINTERPRETATION OF GOC
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POSITION, P.M. WOULD CONSIDER ADDITIONAL REPRESENTATIONS,
EXTAFF MINISTER SHARP RESPONDED BY DESCRIBING
EXHANGE OF CORRESPONDENCE ON ISSUE. SHARP STATED
THAT DEPARTMENT OF STATE, THROUGH EMBASSY OTTAWA,
SOUGHT A REPORT ON CANADIAN POSITION REGARDING
PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION AND FORWARDED QUESTIONAIRE.
BEFORE A REPLY RECEIVED FROM GOC, EMBASSY SENT ITS
OWN REPORT. SUBSEQUENTLY, EMBASSY
RECEIVED ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE,WHICH WERE
FORWARDED TO THE CONGRESS. SHARP SAID THAT ONE
ADDITIONAL PARAGRAPH WAS MADE AVAILABLE BY GOC.

6. HARDING ALSO ASKED MACDONALD IF GOC WOULD
GUARANTEE TO BRITISH COLUMBIA THAT ANY DAMAGES
RESULTING FROM TANKERS OIL SPILLS WOULD BE COMPENSATED.

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MACDONALD REPLIED THAT THE GOVERNMENT
WOULD TAKE EVERY ACTION TO SECURE MAXIMUM PROTECTION
OF COAST INCLUDING INCREASED USE OF TRANS-MOUNTAIN
PIPELINE.

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